

**Colusa Subreach Planning Project Advisory Workgroup
Draft Meeting Summary
September 11, 2006 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Colusa Industrial Properties
Colusa, CA**

**Summary prepared by Carolyn Penny, Facilitator, Common Ground: Center for
Cooperative Solutions with assistance from Ellen Gentry, Sacramento River
Conservation Area Forum**

***Note: The next AW meeting will be held November 6, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at
Colusa Industrial Properties.***

Present:

AW: Annalena Bronson, Burt Bundy, Mike Fehling, John Garner, Greg Golet (alternate for Dawit Zeleke), Armand Gonzales, Kelly Moroney

Staff: Beverly Anderson-Abbs (SRCAF), Ellen Gentry (SRCAF), Facilitator Carolyn Penny (Common Ground), Project Manager Gregg Werner (TNC)

Meeting Objectives

- To receive an update on the AW-identified studies – hydraulic analysis, public recreation, fiscal and economic effects, and regulatory limitations/pest species effects;
- To review the revised AW timeline;
- To receive an update on the status of the Good Neighbor Policy;
- To review the interim products for the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan and the Public Access Plan;
- To review summaries of the preliminary restoration plans for each tract; and
- To discuss the Womble and Jensen Tracts baseline assessments.

Agenda

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Approximate Start Time</u>	<u>Lead Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
1.	10:00	Carolyn Penny, Facilitator	Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, May Meeting Summary	• Introductions. Approve agenda. Approve May summary.
2.	10:15	Gregg Werner, All AW Members	Updated AW Timeline	• Review and comment on the updated AW timeline.
3.	10:30	Gregg Werner, Greg Golet, All AW Members	Updates on AW-Identified Studies (Hydraulic Analysis, Public Recreation, Fiscal and Economic Effects, and Regulatory Limitations/Pest Species Effects)	• Gain an update on the status of the studies and next steps.

Draft Meeting Summary Colusa Subreach Planning Advisory Workgroup September 11, 2006

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Approximate Start Time</u>	<u>Lead Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
4.	10:50	Burt Bundy, Gregg Werner, All AW Members	Good Neighbor Policy Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the status of the Good Neighbor Policy
6.	11:05	Public	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive comment.
7.	11:20	Greg Golet, All AW Members	Womble and Jensen Baseline Assessments and Preliminary Restoration Plan Summaries for Each Tract	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and comment on baseline assessment for Womble and Jensen Tracts.• Review and comment on summaries of preliminary restoration plans for each tract.
8.	12:00	Public	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive comment.
9.	12:15		Lunch and Break	
10.	12:45	Gregg Werner, All AW Members	Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan and Public Access Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and comment on draft Master Plan and Public Access Plan.
11.	1:30	Public	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive comment.
12.	1:45	Gregg Werner, All AW Members	Next Meeting Dates, Next Agenda, and Next Steps Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shape next agenda. Confirm fall meeting dates.
13.	2:00		Adjourn	

Review of May Meeting Summary

The May meeting summary was accepted as final without changes.

Updated Advisory Workgroup Timeline

Gregg briefed the AW that the timeline for the work of the AW was extended by 1 year to an end date of April 14, 2008. Due to final steps of the project, that end date likely means the AW will meet every 2-3 months through the first quarter of 2008. Gregg noted that the analysis of fiscal and economic effects has a rough draft under review and that the initial deliverables from the hydraulic analysis were delayed due to a software glitch. (See below for more on the status of the studies.) The AW will review and possibly refine the number of public meetings on the schedule for the end of 2007.

Updates on AW-Identified Studies (Hydraulic Analysis, Public Recreation, Fiscal and Economic Effects, and Regulatory Limitations/Pest Species Effects)

Hydraulic Analysis

Sets of data from 1937, 1957, and 1997 for the thalweg comparison have been digitized by Ayres Associates. The initial report is expected to be delivered to the subcommittee early October and will then be conveyed to the entire AW. This initial report will include modeling of how design flow and elevations compare to the 1957 projections. The second phase of the Ayres study will model the effects of the proposed restoration scenarios. Gregg noted that multiple runs of the model are included in the scope of work. He also noted several emergency levee repair sites in the Colusa area including near Cruise 'n Tarry, on Reservation Rd., and north of Princeton. The hydraulic analysis subcommittee is made up of Greg, Annalena, Jeff, Francis, Burt, John Garner, and Jon Wrysinski. All AW members expressed interest in being notified of the early October meeting at which the subgroup will receive the initial report.

Recreation Planning

The emerging master plan for the State Recreation Area was the topic of May 11 and August 2 public meetings. At those meetings, there were concerns involving one access area. The plan is modified in light of those concerns. Also, people at those meetings raised the concern of ongoing maintenance of any area where there is public access.

Fiscal and Economic Effects

Gregg is now reviewing a rough draft of the analysis regarding fiscal and economic effects. Around the end of the month, he expects the draft to be distributed to AW and local input contacts by hard copy. The AW can expect to have a presentation from the consultant, EPS, at its next meeting.

Regulatory Limitations and Pest Species Effects

The consultants (EDAW) are meeting with experts, including local farmers. Greg expects a draft report and presentation to the AW by the end of the year. Buffers are one topic for discussion with landowners. Armand expressed an interest in being kept up to date on reaction to the possibility of buffers. Gregg noted that the Jensen property is an example of a location where buffers may work. John noted that the buffer approach could represent a win-win solution and build goodwill. Burt suggested care in regard to coddling moths for walnuts, especially in terms of ongoing maintenance. Gregg and John agreed that any buffer would need a good agreement spelling out responsibilities, including the responsibility for maintenance.

Good Neighbor Policy (GNP) Update

Burt gave an update on the GNP Public Meeting held August 9. A topic of that meeting was how the USF&WS Safe Harbor Program could address the regulatory assurances outlined in the GNP. Burt noted that the programmatic safe harbor and mitigation banking issues are still tricky, but wording in the GNP is getting closer to acceptable for a number of people. He pointed out that the SRCAF has applied to CalFed for a "Working Landscapes Grant" under Proposition 50 to help provide landowner incentives and address regulatory assurances. The

SRCAF has been selected for funding and is rewriting their proposal at this time. Gregg noted that a programmatic safe harbor/ section 7 consultation pilot is still being explored for the Colusa Subreach, especially in regard to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB.) Burt added that a programmatic safe harbor agreement is a challenge when multiple species and both federal and state agencies are involved, but it would provide some assurance to landowners for incidental take of endangered species.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Womble and Jensen Baseline Assessments and Preliminary Restoration Plan Summaries for Each Tract

Greg Golet gave a PowerPoint presentation on four assessments: Womble, Jensen (completed reports with preliminary restoration recommendations), Boeger and Colusa North (preliminary restoration recommendations only). Baseline assessment components include: surrounding land uses, geomorphology and historic river channel migration, elevation and inundation frequency, detailed soils survey, remnant vegetation communities, special status species, bird counts and nonnative mammal survey(s). Elevation, flood frequency and competition from non-natives will preclude timely, natural restoration in all four areas. There is a need for planning setback and potential need to plant a row crop buffer at Womble. There is a potential need to buffer an adjoining walnut orchard at Jensen and a potential need to buffer at Boeger. The Colusa North area is perhaps too small economically to restore; access is required through adjoining property so improvements would be needed. This area is entirely surrounded by habitat. Annalena noted that Keith Swanson, DWR Maintenance Supervisor, wants to be notified about any elderberry planting. Greg noted that the next steps will be to run the preliminary scenarios through the hydraulic analysis modeling, hold discussions with landowners, and then create final restoration plans.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan and Public Access Plan

Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan

Gregg and Mike gave a presentation on the master plan and public access plan to the Colusa City Council. Mike noted that the Ward property is getting positive attention within the Department of Parks and Recreation. This attention may lead to some funding opportunities.

The project objective is to modify the improvements to complement the proposed new boat ramp, update facilities to modern standards, address long term local and regional recreation needs, and integrate recreation and wildlife habitat in the 238 acre expansion area.

John asked whether future problems are expected with the new boat ramp location regarding further river meander. Gregg answered that the expectation is that the new location will remain accessible since there are hard points nearby. Greg asked about seepage into the new campground area. Gregg answered that there will need to be some fill, possibly from the Ward property, and some vegetation removal in the new campground area. Armand noted that the plan for the Ward property could include trail access to the Colusa North property.

Mike explained that the expanded State Recreation Area possibly could provide for seasonal hunting, perhaps in a way that is handicapped accessible. He added that the primitive campground area on the Ward property may also work for yurts, a popular and seasonal option at other parks. Gregg stated that the State Recreation Area provides an interesting opportunity for use and access since State Parks can maintain and enforce.

Greg asked whether ATV access would be allowed. Mike responded that ATV access is allowed only at specially-designated parks and would not be allowed at this park.

Gregg described the next steps: continuing coordination with neighboring landowners, state parks, and the city; third public meeting on the draft master plan in fall of 2006; and a final master plan during the upcoming winter.

Public Access Plan

Gregg reviewed with the AW the status of the plan for public access. He noted that no new public access areas are suggested and that opportunities may arise with funding and management. For example:

- public access at the Stegeman property may be more feasible in the future if neighboring property is acquired.
- Colusa North could be a good site for boat-in camping; there is also possible land access from the Ward property.
- Cruise 'n Tarry would be a site for public access only if an agency is found to actively manage the site.

Kelly suggested that TNC talk with the landowners in the area of the Princeton Ferry to determine interest in selling. Burt suggested that the consultants keep an eye open for boat access opportunities on the east side of the river.

Gregg stated that the next step is a draft plan expected approximately mid-October.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Next Meeting Dates, Next Agenda, and Next Steps Review

Interim Steps

- Gregg will let all AW members know date, time, and location for the hydraulic analysis subgroup meeting in early October.

- Gregg and Beverly will coordinate an update on the Colusa Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan for the October SRCAF TAC meeting.
- Gregg and Burt will coordinate an update to the SRCAF board, possibly for November.

Next Meeting

Agenda Topics

- Fiscal/Economic Effects presentation and discussion
- Hydraulic Analysis initial products
- Draft Recreation Plan
- Update – Regulatory Limitations/Pest Species Effects analysis
- Update – newspaper coverage regarding the SRA

The next meeting of the Advisory Workgroup will be Monday, November 6, 2006 at the meeting room at Colusa Industrial Properties from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.